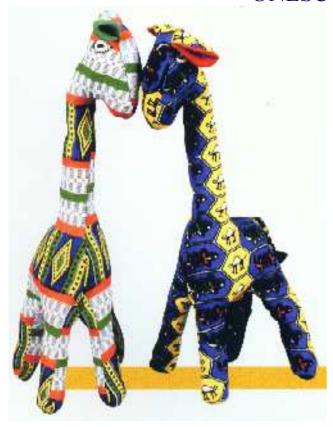


CHILDREN'S TOYS FROM AFRICA

UNESCO PUBLICATION



Following the publication of the book "African Children's Toys" (EDISUD/UNESCO publications), the first exhibition African children's toys was held at UNESCO Headquarters from 26 March to 6 April 2001 at the UNESCO Section for Crafts and Design in the endeavour to work in favour together with the International community.

By holding this exhibition, we wish to share with you the invigorating message of children being transmitted by their toys and to demonstrate the great creativity of the African crafts workers and children.

UNESCO is grateful to the African Member States, museums and crafts associations without which this exhibition would not have, taken place. However, we send our special regards to the African children and crafts workers who lend us their own toys.



Twenty-nine crafts workers from twelve different countries were involved. Their work was designed for girls and boys under the age of 12.

These toys clearly remind us of those made by children to entertain themselves and play with, which is why we included them in the exhibition.

Toys are an essential part of children's living environment. Girls imitate family life, looking after smaller children, cooking and tending the land. Boys, on the other hand, are more interested in physical activities linked to speed, dexterity technology and movement. Other toys appeal to girls and boys alike: musical instruments, board games and all toys aimed at children under 5.

Dolls dominate the first category. Crafts workers endeavour to bring alive the shiny material they use to clothe the dolls, with their faces painted like so many masks inherited from the past. Some dress them in traditional costumes in order to preserve the memory of ancient customs and pass them on to future generations. Examples are the Sarikely, typical characters from the high plateaux of Madagascar or the Signare from Coree, Senegal. This educational element is always accompanied by an aesthetic desire to create a high-quality product far beyond the crafts worker's intentions, the child uses the doll to symbolise a baby, a mother, even itself or some other person, child or adult, real or imaginary.

Boys prefer models of bicycles, motorbikes, aeroplanes, boats and particularly cars. Each material used requires a specific technique. An object made of wire is transparent, although it begins to take shape as the wire symbolises its outline while bringing to life the elements normally kept hidden. Often brightened up by an aluminium colour, the wire takes on a new sparkle which makes it easier to decipher its complex convolutions.



Cars, made of drink cans cut up and meticulously assembled, are covered in the calligraphic lettering of advertisements. Unlike the wire models, here everything is on the surface -your gaze hits the bodywork and glides across the heavy reds, brilliant blues, vivid yellows and the play of words and pictures. Based on models observed around them or publications of various sorts, or complete fabrications, some models are scaled down, exact replicas of the original, while others are evocative creations based purely on imagination and fantasy.

Cuddly toys emerge from the depths of the forest and the savannah - elephants, monkeys, giraffes, tortoises, a gladiator dressed in African colours. The under-6 year olds are captivated by things they can push, from a simple tin can attached to the end of a stick to boisterous horses, not forgetting the helicopter with the propeller made of small coloured plastic spoons. Musical instruments and board games, inextricably linked to community life, appeal to and unite people of all ages.

Children's creations are different from the more complex articles made by crafts workers.

However, some youngsters can rival the quality, speed and technical skill of the professionals.

African children know how to choose materials suitable for the types of toys they are making. Thin wires and steel bars for the axles, bottle tops for wheels, tin cans for the wheels of heavy vehicles, strips of metal for the rims. Children then add cloth or used inner tubes, which they cut into strips and use as ligatures, axle stops and tyres.

The child mechanics in Brazzaville prefer to make their cars in groups and take as much pleasure in building them as in competing at the wheel in races, over obstacle courses or simply driving them around the district.

These groups are organised in accordance with principles similar to those of co-operative foundations. Excellent places of learning, these groups, rather like age groups, also seem to facilitate the social integration of their members, helping them adapt to their changing cultural environment. The groups equally succeed in organising outside the field of parents, uncles and aunts while integrating perfectly in harmony with family life. The organisations thus appear to be particularly enriching for children's social and psychological development.

Children voluntarily enter into a space that allows them to put their personal mark on the creations they use at leisure. They are very good at breaking games by chasing and smashing them, necessitating new creations.

The transformed object, even the most basic one, is then carried by personal imagination that is inscribed in space marked by collective imagination. Individual imagination is capable of incorporating surrounding models, playing with and questioning reality, over indulging, parodying, teasing or challenging it as well as blending inspirational sources. Everything seems possible.

Michel MASSAL

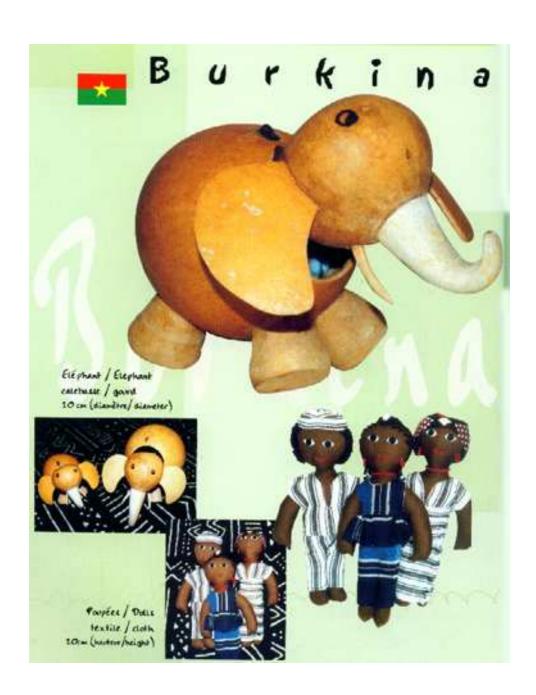


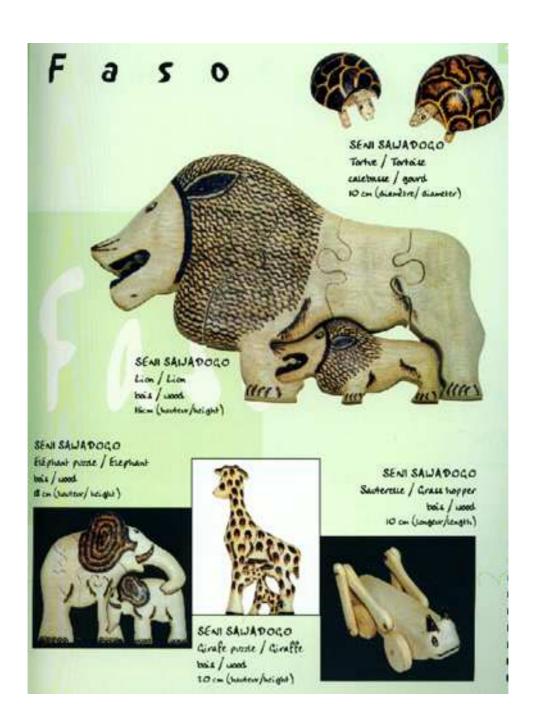
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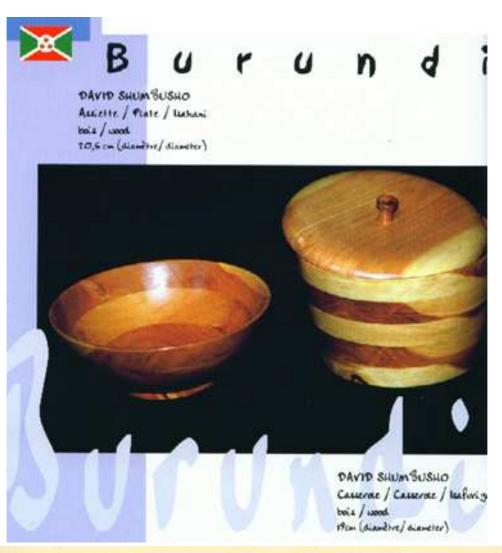
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Congo
Ghana
Madagascar
Mali
Maurice/Mauriłius
Miøer .
Nigeria
Sénégal/Senegal
Seychelles

Liste des œuvres/List of works











Congo



LES ENFANTS DE BRAZZAVILLE / CHILDREN OF BRAZZAVILLE Voiture / Car fil de fer / wire 30x10x10 cm

ATELIER DE POTOPOTO
BRAZZAVILLE
Moto / Motorcar
fil de fer / wire
30x10x10 cm

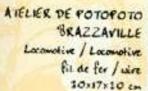




LES ENFANTS DE BRAZZAVILLE / CHILDREN OF BRAZZAVILLE Voiture à tirer / Car fil de l'er / wire 30x16x16 cm



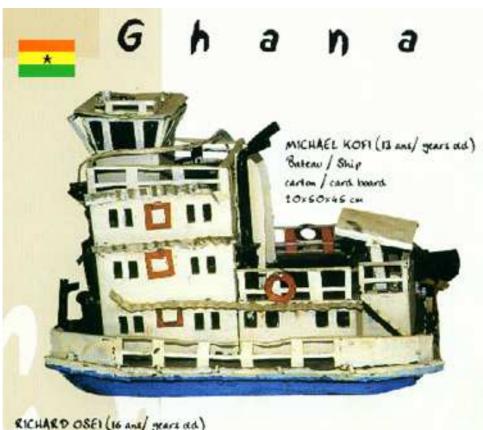
ATELIER DE POTOPOTO BRAZZAVILLE Velo tandem pousoir / Bicycle fix de fer / vive 10×10×70cm





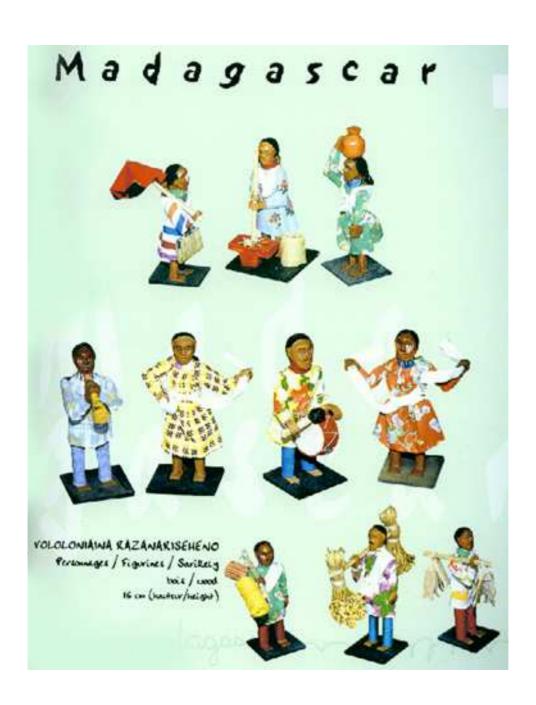


ATELIER DE POTOPOTO BRAZZAVILLE Boxeur pausair / Boxers on wheel fit de fer / wire 10×10×60 cm

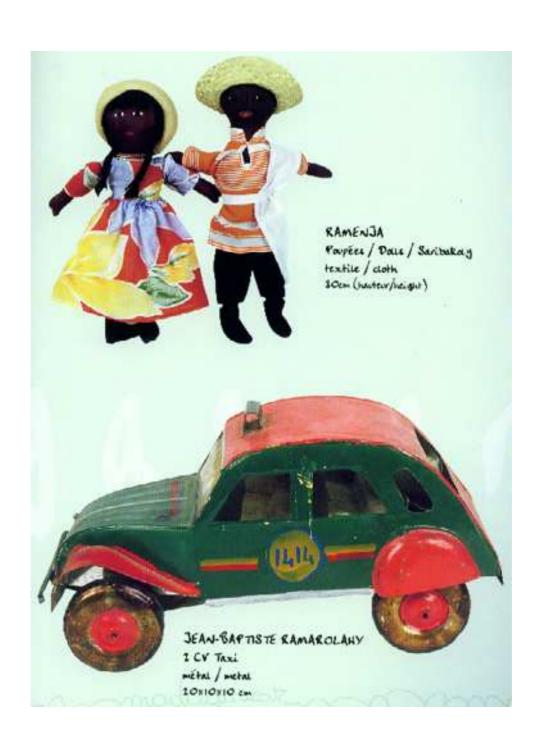


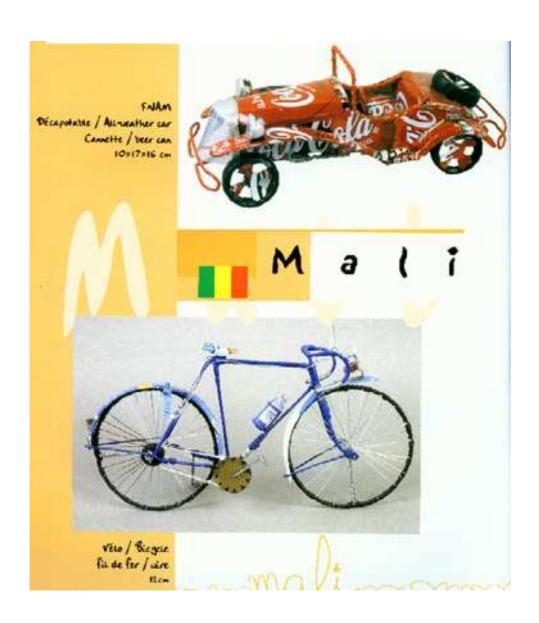
RICHARD OSEI (16 ans/ gears ad)
Biogelette / Biogele
carton / card board
10x15v11 cm



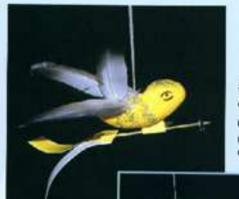












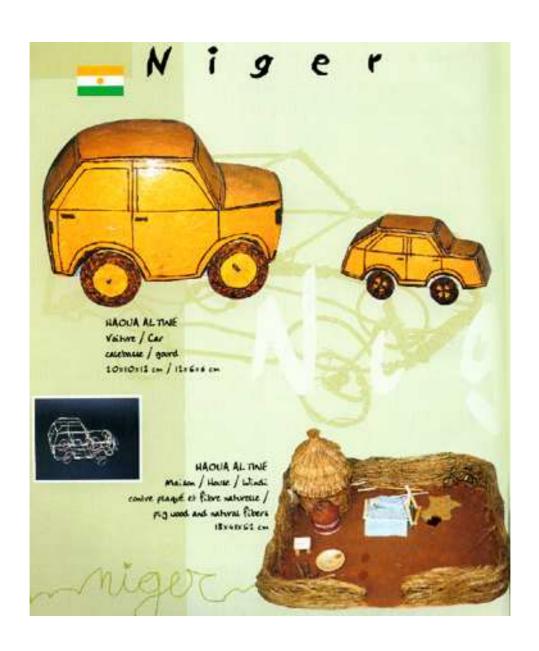
SHAMEEMAH JUMMUN
Claeaux que efficht / Lhuisting birds
pargutyrène et support en bambou /
pargutyrène and bambou stick
60 cm

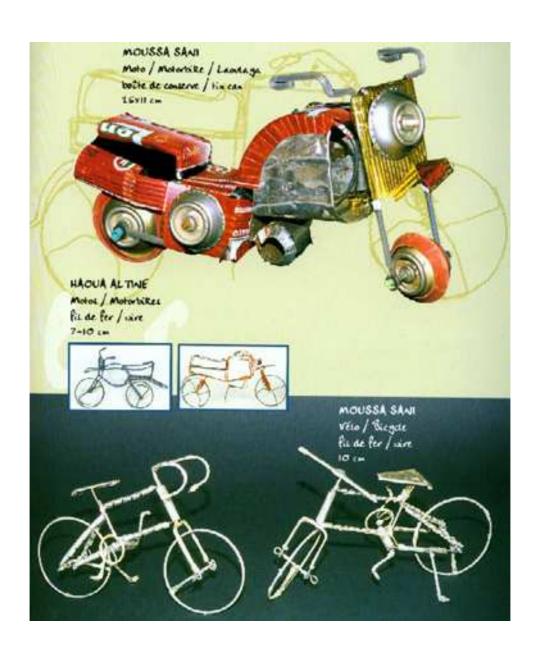
SHAMEEMAH JUMMUN Chevic Power / Horse on wheels tols / wood

METER 90



NOBAL AUBDOOLAN
CARROVEL / CARROVEL
pots et cuitières plantiques / plantic pots and apromis
10 cm (diamètre /diameter)



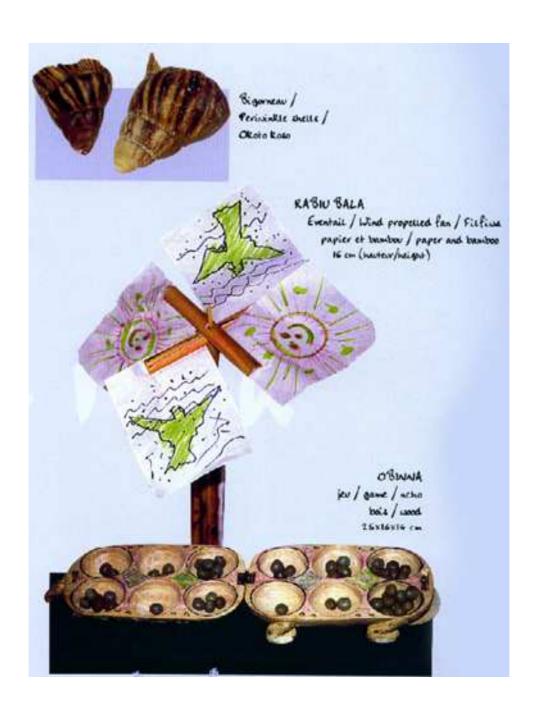




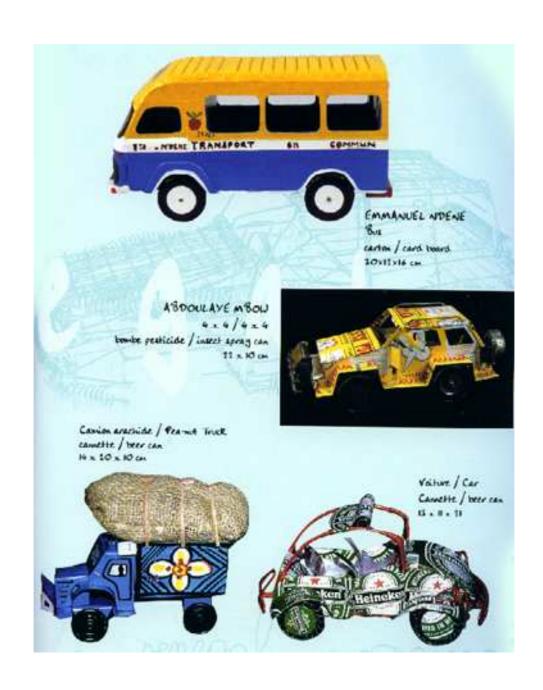
YERIMA GIGIN Instruments de musque / Music instrument / Muso Rivres de plante / plant Rivers 46×12.6 cm

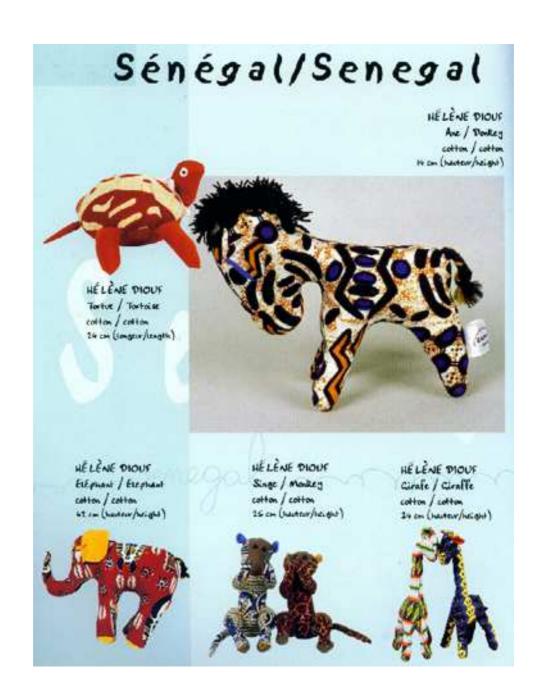


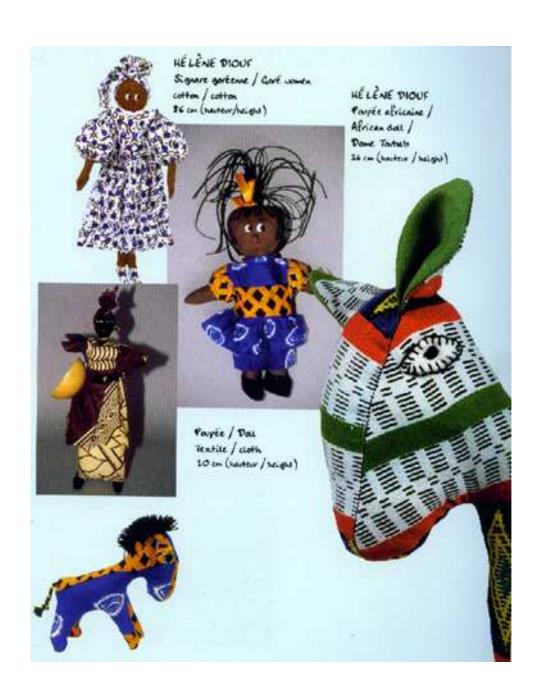


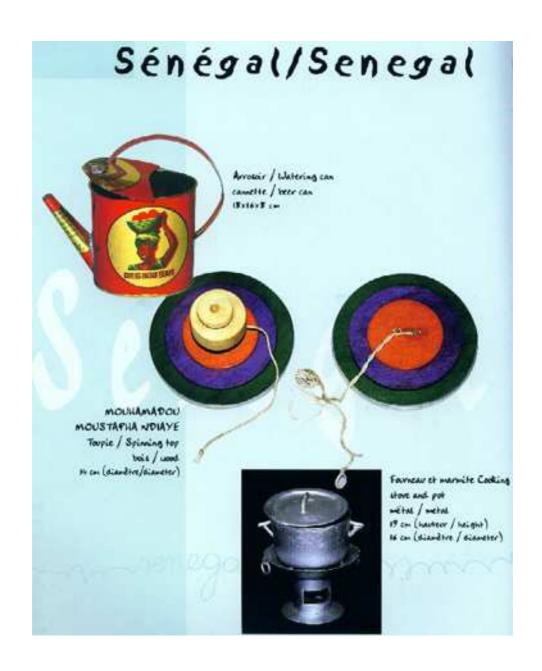


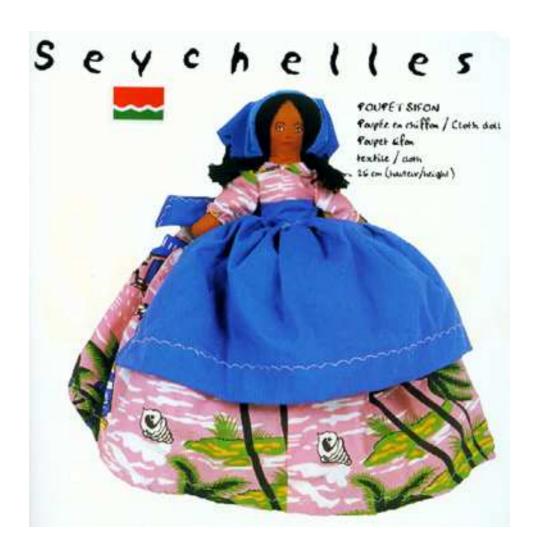












JOUETS DES ENFANTS D'AFRIQUE : CHILDREN'S TOYS FROM AFRCIA : :

PAYS/COUNTRY	AYS/COUNTRY TITRE / TITLE		CONTACT	
BOTSWANA				
	Chariot à bœufs / <i>Ox wagon</i> KOLOI YA DIKGOMO	Lerato Baalaetsi	Botswana National Museum 331 Independence Avenue Gaborone, Private Bag 00114	
	Femmes herero / Herero Women MOHERERO	Kapa Monyalo	Tel: (267) 374 616 Fax: (267) 302 797	
	Anier/ donkey rider / MOPALAMI WA TONKI	Phakedi Jeta	_ .	
BURKINA FASO				
	Poupées / Dolls		Centre des handicapés de la Cathédrale 01 B.P. 3903	
	Eléphant (en calebasse) / Eléphant		Ouagadougou 0 i Tel. (226) 30 75 56	
	Lion / <i>Lion</i> Eléphant - puzzle / <i>Eléphant</i> Tortue – calebasse / <i>Tortoise</i> Girafe – puzzle / <i>Giraff</i> e	Seni Sawadogo	Association Managrenooma pour la protection des orphelins 01 B.P. 3144 Ouagadougou 01	
	Sauterelle / Grass hopper		Tel. (226) 37.02.76.	
BURUNDI	Casserole / Casserole / ISAFURIYA Assiette / Plate / ISAHANI Poêle / Frying pan	David Shumbusho	Direction du Projet de Promotion d'Artisanat de Kayanza BP 62 Kayanza, Burundi Tel: (257) 928 180 Fax:(257) 224 678	
CONGO				
	Moto / Motorcar Locomotive Vélo tandem poussoir / Bicycle Boxeur poussoir / Boxers on wheel	Atelier de Potopoto Brazzaville	Collection privée / Private collection M. Michel Massal	
	Diligence Voiture / <i>Car</i> Voiture à tirer / <i>Car</i>	Les enfants de Brazzaville Children of Brazzaville		
GHANA				
	Bicyclette/ Bicycle	Richard Osei (16 ans/ years old)	_	
	Bateau / Ship Machine à coudre / Sewing machine	Michael Kofi (13 ans/ years old) Amidu Atika (14 ans/ years old)	•	

MAISON DE l'UNESCO, 26 mars - 6 avril 2001 UNESCO Headquarters, 26 March - 6 April 2001

PAYS/COUNTRY	TITRE / TITLE	ARTISANS	CONTACT	
MADAGASCAR				
	Personnages / Figurines / SARIKELY	Vololoniaina	Femmes artisanes de Madagascar	
	Oiseaux articulés / Articulating birds	Razanariseheno	B.P. 3055, 101 Antananarivo	
	VORONA MITSAINGOKA		Tel/ Fax (261) 20 22 430 65	
	Poupées / Dolls / SARIBAKOLY	Ramenja	E-mail:fam@dts.mg	
	2 CV Taxi	Jean Baptiste Ramarolahy	Association "Recyclades" 11 rue Jouvène, 13200 Arles Tel : 06.10.35.16.80 M. Pape Faye	
MALI	V/1 / D. /			
	Vélo / Bicycle	FNIAM		
	Décapotable / All-weather car	FNAM	Association "Recyclades" 11 rue Jouvène, 13200 Arles Tel : 06.10.35.16.80 M. Pape Faye	
MAURICE / MAURITIUS				
	Cheval Poussé / Horse on wheels Oiseaux qui sifflent / Whistling birds	Shameemah Jummun	SPES (Société pour la Promotion des Entreprises Spécialisées)	
	Carrousel	Iqbal Aubdoolah	7 Av. Labourdonnais , Quatre Bornes Tel: (230) 424 7414 Fax: (230) 424 2960 E-mail: spes@bow.intnet.mu	
NIGER	<u> </u>			
	Moto & Vélo / Motor & bicycle / LAOULAYA	Moussa Sani	Coopérative WADATA B.P. 11277 Niamey	
	Maison / House / WINDI	Haoua Altine	Tel: (227) 74.02.83.	
	Voiture (en calebasse) / Car Motos en fil de fer / Wire motorbikes	3	Fax: (227) 74.07.83	
NIGERIA				
	Bigorneau / Periwinkle shells / OKO7	O/KOSO	National Council for Arts and Culture	
	Eventail / FILFIWA	Rabiu Bala	P.M.B. 252, Garki, Abuja Arts Centre	
	Jeu / Game / NCHO	Obinna	Moshood Abiola Road, Garki – Abuja	
	Instruments de musique / Music instrument / MOLO	Yerima Gigin	Tel/Fax: (234-9) 234 2360	
	Instruments de musique /			
	Music instrument / GARAYA			
	Kana Kana Kura	Bala Haruna	·	
SÉNÉGAL / SENEGAL				
	Singe / Monkey	Hélène Diouf	Boutique CAJOU	
	Ane / Donkey		30 Rue Amadou Assane Ndoye	
	Eléphant		BP 11498 DAKAR	
	Girafe / Giraffe		Tel/Fax: (221) 821.96.98	
	Poupée africaine / African doll / DON Signare goréenne / Goré women Tortue / Tortoise	ME TOUBAB	E-mail: cajouhelene@hotmail.com	

JOUETS DES ENFANTS D'AFRIQUE CHILDREN'S TOYS FROM AFRCIA

PAYS/COUNTRY TITRE / TITLE

ARTISANS

CONTACT

SÉNÉGAL				
	Camion Arachide / Pea-nut truck	Camion Arachide / Pea-nut truck		
	Arrosoir / Watering can	• •	B.P. 6011, Dakar Etoile	
	Fourneau & marmite /		Tel: (221) 822 38 01	
	Cooking stove & pot		_ Fax: (221) 839 91 01	
	Voiture / Car	Voiture / Car Mallette / Small Trunk		
	Mallette / Small Trunk			
	Voitures / Cars	Les enfants du Sénégal / Children of Senegal		
	Avion / Aero-plane			
	Poupée / Dall		Direction de l'artisanat - Dakar	
	Puzzles/ Puzzlees		Tel: (221) 823.89.93	
	Toupie / Spinning top	Mouhamadou Moustapha Ndiaye	Fax (221) 823.89.94	
	Avion / aero-plane	Youssou Kane	Association "Recyclades"	
	Bus / bus	Emmanuel Ndene	II rue Jouvène, 13200 Arles	
	4 X 4	Abdoulaye Mbow	Tel: 06.10.35.16.80	
	Bateau / Boot			
	4 X 4	Evariste Kushika Nidata	_	
SEYCHELLES				
	Poupée en chiffon / Cloth doll POUPET SIFON	Dorcilly Marthe Volcere	Seychelles National Commission for UNESCO c/o Mont Fleuri, P.O. Box 48. Republic of Seychelles Tel: (248) 224028 Fax: (248) 224626	

